

# CHARLOTTE VALLEY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume VII, Number 2 April 2023



*Empowering  
Students Today  
to Conquer the  
Challenges of  
Tomorrow*

## CHARLOTTE VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL: CLASS OF 2023 Valedictorian

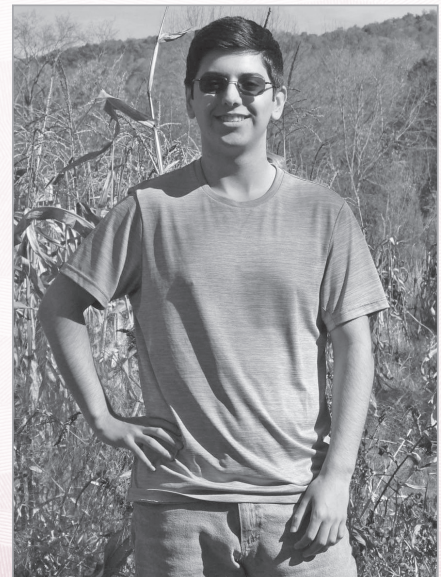


Charlotte Valley Central School is proud to honor this year's Valedictorian, **Elizabeth Gerster**. Elizabeth is the daughter of Phillip and Jennifer Gerster of Davenport. Over the years, we at Charlotte Valley have had the pleasure to witness Elizabeth grow into the outstanding young woman she is today. As the Valedictorian of the Class of 2023, Elizabeth is committed to academic excellence and thrives in challenging courses such as her New Visions Health Care Professions Program. Elizabeth has been an active and valuable member of our athletic program participating in Varsity Soccer, Basketball, and Tennis. Her outstanding academic record and participation in athletics is only rivaled by her contributions to her school and community. Elizabeth is a member of Student Council, National Honor Society, Key Club and SADD and is frequently found volunteering in the community to support local organizations. In her junior year, Elizabeth earned the Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award, and the George H. Ball Community Achievement Award. In her senior year, she was honored with the Joseph Beck Award for her participation in interscholastic league competitions, outstanding academic records and service

to the community. In the fall, Elizabeth plans to attend college where she will be studying medicine. We are so happy to recognize Elizabeth and all her achievements. On behalf of everyone at Charlotte Valley we wish her all the best in her bright future.

## Salutatorian

Charlotte Valley Central School would like to honor this year's Salutatorian, **Kenneth Summers**. Kenneth is the son of Kenneth Summers, Sr. of East Worcester, NY and Margarita Jacquez of Troy, NY. Throughout his time at Charlotte Valley Kenneth has proven himself time and time again to be not only an accomplished student but a positive role model in our school. Always a hard-working and devoted student, Kenneth has won multiple Academic Excellence and Academic Incentive Awards in a variety of subjects and has been honored on our school's Principal and Platinum List, our highest academic honors. Kenneth has also been an active member in SADD, Art Club, Game Club and Sources of Strength, a peer mentoring program. In his junior year, Kenneth was the recipient of the Wells College 21st Century Leadership Award in recognition of his efforts as a leader who inspires others. Throughout high school, Kenneth has been heavily involved in our afterschool CROP program. As a peer leader in this program, Kenneth has been directly involved in teaching younger students to help them better develop their academic as well as personal skills. In the fall, Kenneth plans to attend SUNY Oneonta where he will be studying Computer Science. We are so happy to recognize Kenneth and all his achievements. On behalf of everyone at Charlotte Valley we wish him all the best in his bright future.



**SEE PAGE 3 FOR 2023-24 PROPOSED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS!**



## Mentoring Minute



December is easily one of our favorite months for mentoring as we plan for our annual Holiday Luncheon! On December 15th we gathered all 7-12 students and faculty members in the big gym for an amazing lunch buffet and desserts, followed by games, challenges, and trivia! In preparation, each mentoring group spent a couple weeks planning, designing, and creating a centerpiece for their table. Everyone enjoyed a couple hours of laughs and memory building moments while sitting family style with their mentoring groups. December's theme had us spending time focusing on problem solving skills, specifically in social situations. Each group enjoyed time planning a game called Awkward Moments to prompt conversations about how to best deal with awkward social situations.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO DECEMBER'S WILDCAT OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS:

7th Grade .....Taylor Whitbeck  
8th Grade .....Noah Pedrick  
9th Grade .....Hailey Armstrong  
10th Grade .....Abigail Amatuccio  
11th Grade.....Jessica Zuill  
12th Grade .....Samantha Camarata

In January, we started the new year with discussing goal



setting and focusing on being the best we can be in 2023 and ways we can help others. January's theme allowed us to discuss and share coping strategies for different emotions. Each group listed coping strategies for times when we feel sad, angry, anxious, lonely, and stressed. All the different strategies were then posted on a bulletin board for others to access when needed. Finally, we spent a mentoring session allowing students to select a "me time" activity that helps them cope when feeling stressed or overwhelmed. Students

could choose an activity from painting, creating stress balls, or playing board games to baking or walking.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO JANUARY'S WILDCAT OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS:

7th Grade .....Tyler Hempstead  
8th Grade .....Max Dorans  
9th Grade .....Sadie Stannard  
10th Grade .....Marcus LaSalle  
11th Grade.....Robert Alexander  
12th Grade .....Kaylee Briggs

During February, we allowed classes to spend time preparing for Battle of the Classes during mentoring! Congratulations to the Class of 2024 for winning Battle of the Classes 2023!

### CONGRATULATIONS TO FEBRUARY'S WILDCAT OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS:

7th Grade .....Tucker Whipple  
8th Grade .....Hayden Marino  
9th Grade .....Addison Scott  
10th Grade .....Dylan Carey  
11th Grade.....Simone Tunno  
12th Grade .....Michael Camarata

March started with organizing a "March Music Madness"



bracket to celebrate Music in Our Schools Month. Each mentoring group selected 4 songs they believe are the best songs of all time. A bracket was created and mentoring groups voted each week until the winning song was determined to be Thunderstruck by AC/DC. Mentoring groups also completed a team challenge in March by designing and build-

ing Leprechaun Traps! All faculty and staff members voted on the categories of; best overall design, most creative, and most festive! Finally, we combined mentoring groups into groups of two or three and partnered students together to share connection questions as a reminder that we should celebrate the things and experiences that make us all unique.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO MARCH'S WILDCAT OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS:

7th Grade .....Jaleel Thomas  
8th Grade .....Javier Bouton  
9th Grade .....Caleb Marino  
10th Grade .....Caden Harkenreader  
11th Grade.....Echo Vieira  
12th Grade .....Ariana Gonsalves

# 2023-24 PROPOSED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

*Focused on empowering the students of today to conquer the challenges of tomorrow.*

The Charlotte Valley CSD 2023-24 budget is carefully developed to remain focused on the mission to empower our students to conquer the challenges of tomorrow. The budget focuses on both short and long term goals to remain fiscally sustainable through unpredictable landscapes.

## INVESTING IN PEOPLE

Education is driven by people—the students who we serve and those that help support them on the road to success. Our budget continues to invest in the people and student services that make Charlotte Valley strong. This year's budget ensures that those services remain intact, along with those who help provide them to our students—from transportation to instructional support to the maintenance staff. Enacting wise, long-term fiscal decision making now, will help sustain these services for the future.

## THE FISCAL LANDSCAPE—SUSTAINABILITY TO PROSPERITY

Over the past few years, schools have gone through some of the most turbulent times in history—closures, challenging protocols, and a loss of instruction and relationships. To help combat this schools were provided an influx of funding to assist with closing these gaps. Schools developed new programs, offered tutoring and summer programming, hired additional staff, and purchased needed materials. Within the next 15 months, these COVID related funds will discontinue. The districts that begin to plan for this funding cliff now, will be in a better position to prosper later.

This year's budget begins this process of allocating financial resources in the areas that are most beneficial to the district's mission, knowing that supplemental COVID related funding will not be available to help offset expenses. All current positions and programs remain in the proposed 23-24 budget.

The District will receive enhanced state aid this year, due to the Governor and Legislature fully funding Foundation Aid, but it is also tempered by raging inflation. With careful planning, we aim to maintain our high level of programming and support for our district's students in this year's proposed budget and future ones thereafter.

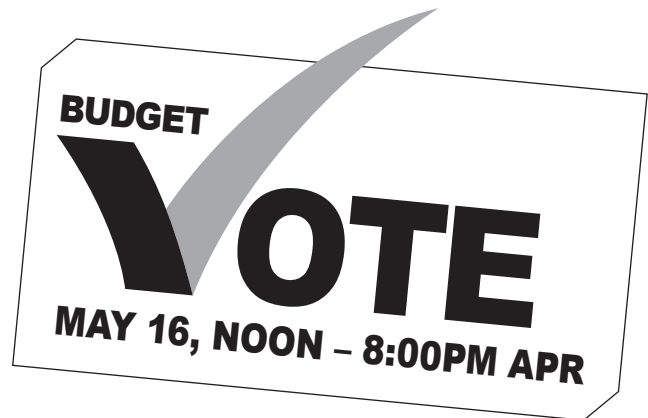
## PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

The budget once again provides opportunities for students to grow and learn. We continue to offer AIS services in ELA and Math in the elementary, along with various AIS services in the middle and high schools. Students will be offered extended day programming through tutoring, Regents preparation, and summer school.

The District has placed an emphasis on providing students learning opportunities in the field of STEM by fully furnishing our dedicated STEM room with a variety of materials and supplies. The CVCS Robotics team has grown by both numbers and prestige.

Social and emotional learning have become a necessary, but valuable aspect of our learning program. We continue to provide school counseling, social work, and whole group skill building. Our dedicated MS/HS teams have developed a mentoring program focused on building strong peer-to-peer and student-adult relationships.

Students have opportunities to engage in co- and extra-curricular activities, distance learning classes and in-person electives for both college and high school credit. Our strong relationship with BOCES provides students the programming option that best fits their learning style and interest.



## BOARD OF EDUCATION SEATS

The following vacancies are to be filled:

- A three year term ending June 30, 2023, presently held by Becky Garrison
- A three year term ending June 30, 2023, presently held by Jeff Vroman

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If you would like an absentee ballot, please contact the District office at (607-278-5511) or by email, at [plante.jennifer@charlottevalley.org](mailto:plante.jennifer@charlottevalley.org).

## EXPENDITURES

Program	2022-2023 Budget	2023-2024 Proposed
K-12 Instruction	2,323,623	2,581,071
Special Education	1,705,116	1,854,468
Occupational Education	306,572	317,808
Instructional Media	219,846	225,708
Counseling, Social, Psychological Services	404,712	390,552
Co- & Extra Curricular Activities	212,782	216,991
Pupil Transportation	513,043	579,640
Youth Program	7,000	7,000
Curriculum Development	16,000	16,000
Civics Activities	1,775	1,775
Employee Benefits	2,030,655	2,135,462
General Support	228,034	240,863
Interfund Transfer	15,000	15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,984,158</b>	<b>8,582,338</b>

Administrative	2022-2023 Budget	2023-2024 Proposed
Board of Education	16,391	16,304
Central Administration	153,514	159,296
Finance	201,613	207,348
Central Staffing Support	51,625	36,269
Buildings and Grounds	6,500	6,500
Central Services	36,269	49,769
Insurance and Special Items	210,646	228,546
School Administration and Improvement	389,252	293,960
Transportation	2,500	9,366
Employee Benefits	176,810	196,007
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,245,120</b>	<b>1,202,636</b>

Capital	2022-2023 Budget	2023-2024 Proposed
Buildings and Grounds	565,317	667,628
Refund on Real Property Taxes	3,000	3,000
Transportation-Bus Purchase	170,000	170,000
Employee Benefits	124,474	111,232
Debt Service	1,215,000	1,254,939
Capital Outlay	100,000	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,177,791</b>	<b>2,306,800</b>

### 2023-2024 Budget

**Summary:** A line-by-line look at expenditures

New York State law requires all school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories (program, administrative, and capital). Charlotte Valley's three-part budget is as follows:

#### Program

**2023-24 \$8,582,338**

Includes salaries and benefits for all teachers and staff who deliver instructional and pupil services (guidance, health, library/media, etc.), materials and supplies, athletics, and transportation costs.

#### Administrative

**2023-24 \$1,202,636**

Includes salaries and benefits for all administrators, supervisors, and administrative clerical staff, curriculum development support, school board costs, legal costs, and tax collection costs.

#### Capital

**2023-24 \$2,306,800**

Includes salaries and benefits of all maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings, school bus purchases, utilities, and general insurance.



## WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

A line-by-line look at Revenues

REVENUES	2022-2023 Budget	2023-2024 Proposed
Real Property Tax + STAR	3,331,755	3,431,374
Foundation Aid	4,222,746	5,000,005
BOCES & Special Services	805,989	793,939
Excess Cost-Public & Private	176,444	102,018
Building Aid	1,126,263	1,167,926
Transportation Aid	619,617	533,581
Hardware & Technology	5,945	5,644
Software, Library, & Textbook	29,281	27,277
High Tax Aid	70,000	70,000
Interest & Penalties	25,000	25,000
Tuition from other Districts	230,000	230,000
Interest on Investments	5,000	5,000
Refund on Prior Year BOCES Services	275,000	75,000
Medicaid Reimbursements	60,000	60,000
Other Misc. Receipts	40,000	87,000
Appropriated Fund Balance & Reserves	384,226	478,010
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,407,266</b>	<b>12,091,774</b>



### HISTORICAL TAX LEVY

2016-17 --- 0.00%

2017-18 --- 1.97%

2018-19 --- 1.70%

2019-20 --- 1.90%

2020-21 --- 1.90%

2021-22 --- 0.49%

2022-23 --- 0%

### 2023-24 TAX LEVY

2.99% Tax Levy

Tax Cap

3.38%

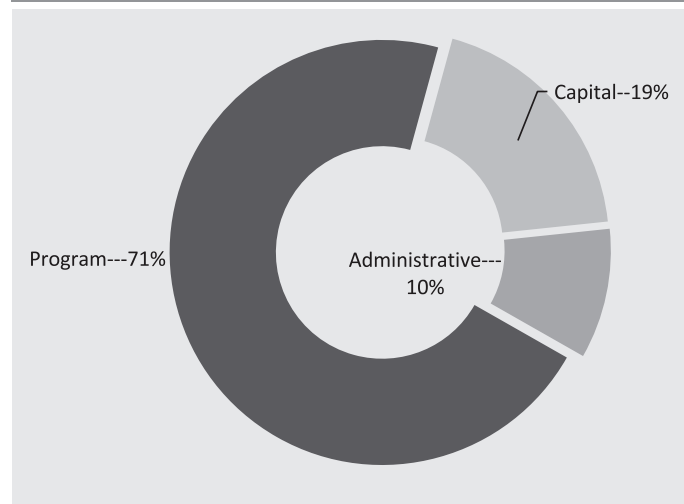
1.25% levy increase  
over 8 years

*This year's proposed tax levy increase is 2.99%, which is under the district's tax levy cap of 3.38%.*

*Since the proposed levy is under the cap, a simple majority (50%+1) is required for approval.*

*Over the past 8 years, the district has averaged a 1.25% increase.*

## EXPENDITURES



## The Music Department

The music department at Charlotte Valley has had a busy and exciting week!

Charlotte Valley took eighteen students to the All-County Festival at Delaware Academy. The students performed with students from all around the county over the course of two days to put on a concert on Saturday afternoon. The students represented Charlotte Valley very well through their hard work, perseverance, and incredible musicianship.

Here is what some of our students had to say about the experience:

**Nicholas Thompson:** "I think that the concert went well in all. The guidance from everyone was tremendous. They found ways to keep everyone focused for hours. It felt like minutes because of all of the fun."

**Tanner Matz:** "It was fun. I made new friends and the music was pretty good."

**Madelynn Joubert:** My experience at this year's all-county was very fun. I got to learn new music that challenged my abilities as a bass clarinet player and ultimately let me become a better player. I got to meet new people and make new friends. I also had the opportunity to spend more time with my friends from my school."



## H★MILTON

The middle school and high school band and chorus students also attended a musical this week! We saw Hamilton at Proctors Theater in Schenectady.

Here is what the students had to say about the experience:

**Abigail Vroman:** "I loved it. It was cool that the set was so similar and seeing it staged after loving the music for months was amazing."

**Korbin Andersen** "The whole theater was so pretty and the show itself was good too."

**Bailee Wellman and Kyle Alexander** "It was amazing. I like that the music was catchy. The beats were great."





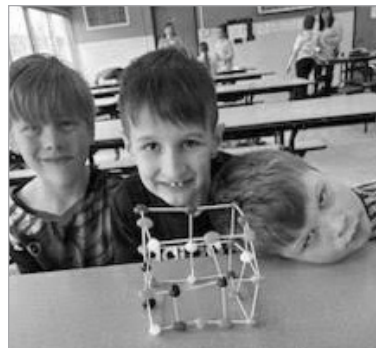


*CROP students recently attended a showing of Cirque Mechanics "Zephyr: A Whirlwind of Circus" presented by the Catskill Mountain Foundation at the Orpheum Performing Arts Center in Tannersville, NY Everyone enjoyed the show!*



## High School Math

Deb Moorby's Algebra AIS and Applied Math classes are working with Elise Glassett, Financial Education Program Coordinator from Sidney Credit Union. Mrs. Glassett comes to Charlotte Valley once a month to work with the students. So far the students have participated in financial wellness sessions about credit score and the differences between debit vs credit. Skills and real-life scenarios discussed during these sessions will help students have an enhanced understanding of money management. The students in Mrs. Moorby's classes are always engaged and welcoming to the wealth of knowledge that they learn from the financial wellness sessions. Added bonus, Mrs. Glassett lives near a bakery and brings us yummy treats!





# congratulations



Girls JV basketball team were regular season league champions finishing with a 19-1 record. The girls met Stamford/Jefferson in the league championship game at Margaretville winning 36-23. Congratulations girls and coach Sperry on a great season.



The Girls on the Run season is off to a great start! The girls are learning what it means to be authentic and confident. The girls are recognizing their own power and potential while having fun with their teammates. It's been so great to get outside and run together!



## Sixth Grade



Sixth grade students (5th graders will start in April) have been preparing for their trip to Washington D.C. by researching a monument or building that we will be visiting while on the trip. Each student has chosen a sight that we will be going to on the trip and creating a google slide presentation full of information and pictures. They have been learning about the reason the monument was created, it's location, when it was built, who or what event it commemorates, and details about its design. Students are learning about and will

be visiting the U.S. Capitol building, the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, World War 2 Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Ford's Theater (where Lincoln was assassinated), and Arlington National Cemetery among others. They have uncovered some amazing facts about their chosen monument. Do you know how many columns there are in the building design of the Lincoln Memorial? Do you know why there are that many? Do you know how many bedrooms and bathrooms there are in the White House? How about what John Wilkes Booth yelled to the audience after shooting Abraham Lincoln and jumping down from the balcony to the stage? These are just some of the fascinating facts students have learned about the buildings in our nation's capitol. They will be presenting these slideshows at the end of the marking period. The trip to Washington for 5th and 6th grade students is scheduled for May 8 through 10 and we can't wait!



## Second Grade

Second grade is celebrating student success each month with a day of fun learning activities. In March the children had to "earn" money completing academic tasks that they could then use to spend to play fun games on carnival day. The second graders also invited first graders and became "carnival workers." They were amazing workers! We ended the day with a magic show where the students were showered with toilet paper. It was a wonderful day to be in second grade.



In Mrs. Weber's Elective class, sixth graders have been working on designing their own Taco Trucks! A lot of thought and creativity has gone into company designs, names, and menus. Students practiced operations with decimals as they placed "orders" from other student-made Taco Trucks. Students are now mapping out blueprints in their designs, calculating area and perimeter of designated requirements that go into creating a mobile food truck, and will ultimately get to build a 3D model of their vision!

## Fourth Grade

Fourth graders have been learning all about the Industrial Revolution and how transportation has developed in the 1800s. Topics like the steamboat, the Erie Canal, early roads, and the railroad have been the highlight of our recent Social Studies learning. The students cannot wait until our end of the year field trip to the Erie Canal.

## Third Grade

Third grade just finished a fractured fairytales unit. We brought back traditional fairytales with matched, altered or fractured fairy tales. The students forgot they were comparing and contrasting and expanding their writing skills because they were so into the books.



## Kindergarten

The kindergarten kids welcomed spring with lots of exciting projects, activities and even a special Easter egg hunt! They are looking forward to planning a kindergarten cafe, celebrating Earth Day, going on field trips and starting the alphabet countdown to summer vacation! Before we know it, June will be here and it will be time for our kindergarten celebration picnic!



On Thursday, February 16, students and staff at CVCS had a meet and greet with a certified therapy dog!

Shannan Breault is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor at SUNY Cobleskill. This year, she has been joined by her Therapy Dog, Wiley. They were certified as a therapy dog team four years ago. Wiley helps people cope with health or emotional problems, by providing attention and comfort. Pet therapy has been shown to decrease depression and anxiety and promote communication and emotional well-being.

We look forward to many more visits with Ms. Breault and Wiley in the future!



## National Honor Society

National Honor Society members would like to thank everyone for your continued support of our projects to support the community. In December, we were thrilled to be able to sponsor two tags from the giving tree to help ensure a happy holiday for all local children. In January, we were able to donate two bags of hats, scarves, and gloves to the "Scarves Along the Way" location in Oneonta. Thanks to the tremendous support at our basketball concession stand, donations, and a hat & pajama day at school, we were able to donate \$500 to the Polar Bear Jump recipients in February. In March, we were very thankful to host the Red Cross for a Blood Drive at Charlotte Valley. After a great community and student turn out, we were able to collect 21 units in five hours which has the ability to impact and/or save 57 lives! Thank you for your support Wildcat community!



*MST class learns about buoyancy and density by making a helium balloon drift slowly up to the ceiling. Balloon race in this case means the last one to the ceiling wins!*

## May Calendar of Events

May 4 .....	BOE meeting, 6:30 p.m.
May 8-10.....	Safety Patrol Trip
May 9 .....	Annual Budget hearing, 6:30 p.m.
May 12-14 .....	Senior Trip
May 16 .....	Elementary Concert, 6 p.m.
May 16 .....	Budget vote, Noon-8 p.m.
May 17.....	MS/HS Concert, 6:30 p.m.
May 19.....	PreK-12 Noon Dismissal
May 20.....	Prom
May 26.....	No School
May 29.....	No School
May 31 .....	NYS 8th Grade Science Performance Exam

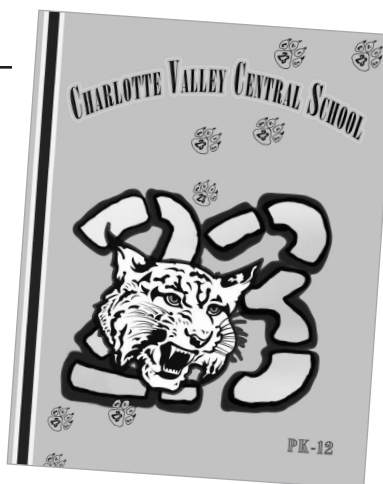
## June Calendar of Events

June 1 .....	BOE Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
June 1 .....	US History regents
June 5 .....	NYS 8th grade Science Written Exam
June 6 .....	Music Awards, 6 p.m.
June 7 .....	6th grade celebration, 1 p.m.
June 7 .....	NHS Induction, 6:30 p.m.
June 8 .....	Athletic Banquet, 6 p.m.
June 9 .....	Mentor Picnic.
June 9, 12 & 13 .....	MS/HS Chromebook collection days
June 12 .....	Academics Award, 6 p.m.
June 13.....	Last Day for MS/HS, Moving up Day
June 14-22 .....	Regents
June 16.....	CROP Ends
June 19.....	No School
June 20-22 .....	Noon Dismissals
June 21.....	Baccalaureate, 7 p.m. (Methodist Church)
June 22 .....	End of Year BOE Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
June 23 .....	Graduation, 6:30 p.m.

## Your 2023 Yearbooks are now Available!

The 2023 yearbook cover is a design from our very own senior, **Cadence Santiago**! The club members voted and this was our winner!

Yearbook Club was a recipient of a \$500 Next Generation grant from Entourage Yearbook company. The students voted and have agreed to purchase a desktop work station computer to help with the production process. Any remaining funds the club student members plan to give back in a form of either books or honoring a late teacher that was very dear to us.



Charlotte Valley Central School  
Davenport, New York 13750

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*2023 Battle of the Classes winners CLASS OF 2024*

